

The **NEWS-
LETTER**
Inyo-Mono

May
1982

75¢

*BK's
notes
P. 27*

MONO



**NO
JOINING
HANDS
IN THE
WATER WAR**

P. 23

INYO



**RESIGNATIONS
IN THE SCHOOLS
P.12**

Deadly Itch?.. Bracing for summer swarms...P.5

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ON THE COVER

Mono Lake finds itself under attack from thirsty DWP but Mono officials don't care to join forces with Inyo in the water battle for fear of rocking the political boat. See page 23.



A News Alternative Eastern Sierra News Service

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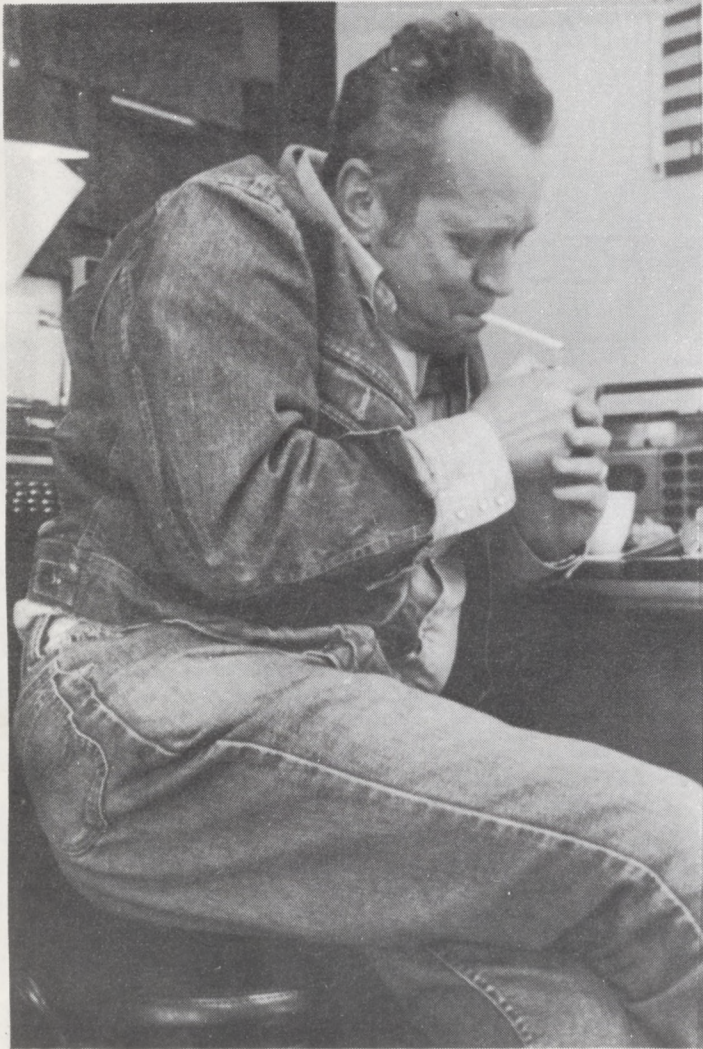
AN INVESTIGATOR GETS SENT TO THE CELLAR IN SEARCH OF PAST COVERAGE
OF THE WILSON MURDER CASE / PERIPHERAL VISION: CALIFORNIA'S OTHER
WATER WAR GOES TO THE VOTERS / LOCAL BUSINESSES GET AN INSURANCE BREAK

An increasingly active local media has also meant an increase in requests by attorneys to have their cases moved out of the county. The legal community feels the media attention can often make it difficult - if not impossible - to select an unbiased jury.

To try to prove their point before a judge, some attorneys are requesting copies of newspaper stories and scripts from broadcasters. And those "requests" are often followed by subpoenas to newsmen to appear in court.

As many reporters learned in the Bacoch change of venue hearing, the whole process can be time consuming, hence costly. And if there are two things reporters have little of, it's time and money.

So when Public Defender Dean Stout sent out



Defense investigator Kibbe
Braving the news service "archives"
in search of articles on the
Wilson case.

another letter requesting copies of all past written and broadcast news material on the Steve Wilson murder case, reporters braced for yet another go-round.

When one Bishop broadcaster received such a request in the Bacoch case, he sent Stout a bill for \$100 for his time spent digging through mountains of material. He was never subpoenaed, nor as far as we know, was he ever paid.

So when Stout's investigator in the Wilson case, Lea Kibbe (the two had worked together on the defense of convicted murderer Laird Stankewitz) showed up at the newsroom one day, we figured it was for more than just a friendly chat. And, indeed, in a round-about way, Kibbe finally asked to see where old broadcast scripts were kept. We handed him a flashlight and pointed to a cellar entrance, complete with spider webs and other ominous features. We told him if he hadn't returned in a few hours, we'd call search and rescue.

No one has ever accused Kibbe of being timid in nature and he heartily grabbed the flashlight and bounded down the stairs. He emerged again in about 10 minutes, shaking his head. "That's a mess down there," he muttered. He had managed to find one old *News-Letter* containing an article on the disappearance of Olancho rancher Bill Thornburgh, the man Wilson is accused of murdering.

We haven't seen Kibbe since. And judging from Stout's comments later on, we may not see him again. "He said I've made him do a lot of horrible things but that was the worst," said the public defender. "Once I sent him to a hospital to talk with a crazy guy who was beating his head against a wall. He said he'd rather do that again than go back in those archives."

Referring to our storage area as "archives" is paying it a considerable compliment. But maybe now the defense has a better understanding of why the press bristles at those "simple" little requests.

While all the signals are certainly there, it remains to be seen whether Stout will actually ask for the change of trial locations. Said he: "We're considering a number of motions, including a motion for change of venue." The press and the public will know more after the May 3 trial confirmation hearing.

Water battles are certainly nothing new for the Owens Valley, but one of the hottest fights over the precious commodity is now going on in other areas of the state.

Big business and big agribusiness are squaring off over the issue of the State Water Act that will appear on the June ballot as Prop. 9. If approved, it would authorize construction of the Peripheral Canal.

Proponents of the proposition, campaigning under the title "Citizens for Water," are largely composed of the State Chamber of Commerce and businesses dependent upon continued development in the metropolitan areas of the state, especially Southern California. They argue that unless the

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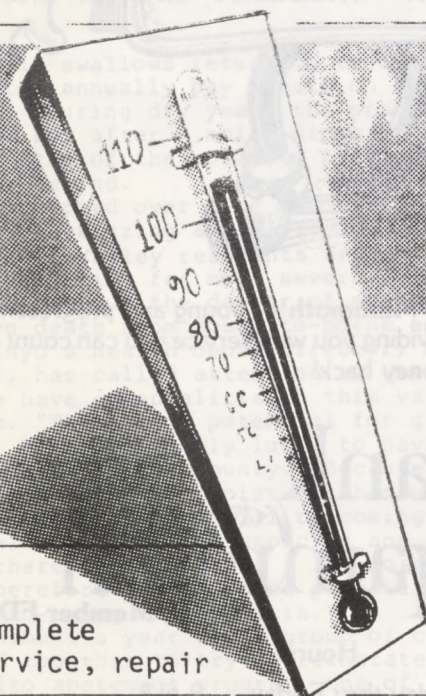
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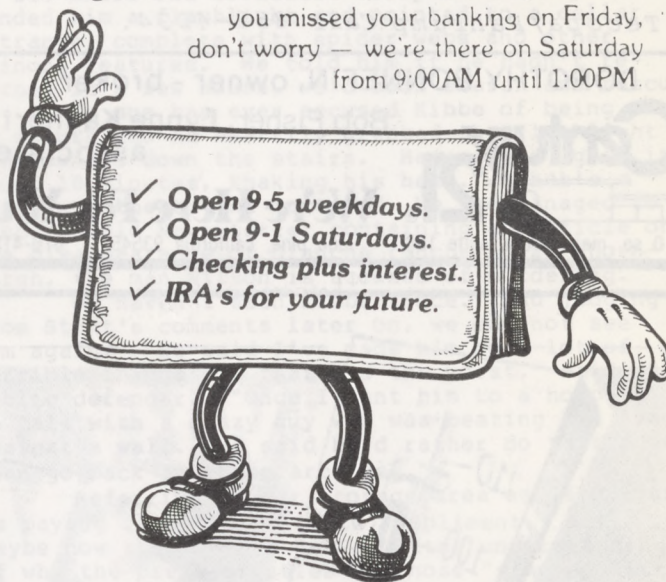
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DEADLY ITCH?

THE IRRITATING BUZZ AND IRKSOME WELTS LEFT ENOUGH. THE WET WINTER AND SPRING HAVE SOME A MORE SEVERE PROBLEM: MOSQUITO-BORNE

BEHIND BY MOSQUITOS ARE BAD VALLEYITES CONCERNED ABOUT ENSEPHELITIS...

Like swallows returning to Capistrano, mosquitos annually pay a call on the Owens Valley. During dry years the problems are not as bad, but after a moist winter, the irritating itch of the mosquito bite is usually not far behind.

Concerned over more than just the bothersome buzzing and biting of the insects, some Owens Valley residents are worried about something far more severe. They are concerned about the danger of severe illness or even death from mosquito-borne encephalitis.

Inyo's Health Dept. Director, Dr. George Kibler, has called attention to the problem. "We do have encephalitis in this valley," he states. "There is a potential for grave problems. We're extremely lucky to have had only three cases in the county. Because of the increased amount of moisture that's falling on the mountains and will be coming down into the valley, I have a suspicion and a fear that there's going to be a lot more mosquitos and therefore an increased probability of mosquito-borne encephalitis."

Almost a year ago a group of citizens banded together to try to reinstate the Inyo mosquito abatement program, one of the first county services hatched after Proposition 13 began taking its toll. Kibler had at the time advocated immediate action: "We've got a bad problem and it's going to get worse if we don't do something. Unfortunately young children will be the worst hit."

But that citizens' drive came late in the spring when it would have been too late to begin any sort of effective abatement pro-

gram even if there had been money to do so. And the dry, hot summer that followed produced few mosquitos and public momentum died down. Now Kibler's quest for action has become more a sigh of resignation. "We can't do anything," he says. "It will take public outrage to get something done and unfortunately it may take a child's life before that happens." For lack of money to do anything more, Kibler is now gearing up for a public awareness program to educate people on how to avoid mosquito problems.

However, it isn't the puddle in someone's yard that concerns health officials. It's the area known as the Owens Valley Flood Plain. It runs along the Owens River and is considered by the State Health Dept. to be one of the worst mosquito breeding areas in the state. This year, with the unusually high winter snowfall many are watching with concern and wondering if the spring and summer runoff will bring with it swarms of annoying and possibly hazardous mosquitos. During brief periods of warm weather in early March, mosquitos made a quick, foreboding appearance.

Dr. Kibler points to another problem: the on-again, off-again water spreading by DWP. "One of our biggest problems is the fact DWP dumps excess water out onto the Valley floor and uses flood irrigation to grow grass for cattle. Both create tremendous problems."

Mosquitos are so commonplace that many find it difficult to picture them as carriers of a life-threatening disease. People who

continued next page

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have survived a bout with encephalitis know differently.

Bishop welder John Slee contracted a serious case of the disease during the summer of 1980. "I thought I was having a stroke," he said of the first symptoms to appear. "One side of my body went completely numb and I couldn't talk. It was frightening. I would become numb joint by joint from my head to my toes. The numbness would go down one side and then start down the other side."

Slee says local doctors couldn't figure

out what was wrong with him and as the symptoms progressed they even suspected a psychological disorder. "Your brain swells to three times its normal size. You get terrific pressure and pain. It hurts," said Slee. "Within two weeks I was flipping out. Your temperature fluctuates from real low to real high." Slee's fever peaked out at 107 degrees and he was finally rushed by ambulance to Washoe Medical Center in Reno. He remembers being restrained along the way because he was becoming combative in his delirium. "At Bridgeport they packed me in ice and that's the last thing I remember until we were at the hospital."

At Reno a spinal tap quickly revealed the source of Slee's problems: He had contracted encephalitis. Unlike many who come down with the disease, Slee lived through it apparently unscathed by permanent damage. However, his pocketbook is still hurting. His hospital bill at Washoe alone was \$10,000. He figures the entire medical bill amounted to about \$15,000 and he was forced to take off work for four months.

For Dale Varnum of Bishop, his son's experience with encephalitis was maddening enough for him to file suit against Inyo County, claiming negligence due to the cutting back of the mosquito abatement program. However, that suit was later dropped.

Varnum's son contracted the disease some six years ago when he was 17 years old. As is often the case, the younger the victim, the more severe the effects of the disease.

But Varnum's son lived. "He was written up in medical journals as the only person to

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by
Clarence
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READING THE HEADLINES IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ONE CRY THESE DAYS. BUT NOT CLARENCE BENBROOK... WITH TONGUE PLANTED FIRMLY IN CHEEK, HE QUIPS HIS WAY THROUGH CURRENT EVENTS.

L.A. Councilman Art Snyder has had a \$300,000 kitty donated for his re-election. This earns him \$70,000 a year interest. Snyder's kitty is out of the bag.

The average American works 30 days just to pay insurance. He works another five months to pay his taxes, 90 days to pay the rent and 90 days for food. The remainder of the budget deficit goes on credit cards.

An angry finger pointing debate flared between Democrats and Republicans. The finger is for the public.

No Foul play was found in the death of a millionaire recently. He was just playing Chicken in his Rolls Royce.

Kaiser Steel freezes white collar pay and seeks other concessions from the union. A state of the Union ignored by Congress.

This is the political campaign season and the sale of ear plugs have jumped by 69%.

Everybody's complaining about the expensive set of China at the White House table. Maybe we could get Russia at the White House table that cheap.

Reagan appropriates money for nerve gas. No need for this; there's plenty of nerve and gas in Congress.

San Diego City Councilmen voted raises for themselves and the mayor. This was recommended by the city's Salary Setting Commission, supposedly an "independent body." Probably an independent body made up of appointees of the city council.

L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley says it will cost him about \$6 million to run for governor of California. Why doesn't he just take the \$6 million and RUN?

Figures indicate that 9,000 doctors in the U.S. are addicted to drugs. Are our doctors going to POT?

Reagan should make polygamy legal. This would cut women's unemployment by 50%.

China reports a girl almost eight feet tall. Take me to your ladder.

The drive to recall Chief Justice Rose Bird has fallen short. A Bird in the hand is worth two on the bench.

The NAACP has issued a "white list" of biased firms. A "black list" of a "white list."

Three men in Van Nuys were convicted and fined for selling bear parts. What's a bear going to do for spare parts now? Also, a restaurant owner was fined for buying eight bear Paws. The Maws got away.

How do you get a 24-year-old girl to move out of your house? Get her a 26-year-old millionaire with a mansion.

Senator Byrd urges the President to offer a budget that is more realistic. One for the Byrds.

A drip stopped in every toilet would save Mono Lake. The Drips stopped at the DWP could save the whole valley.

Angry Hollywood residents want prostitution out of their neighborhood. Your neighborhood or mine?

Ozone, a major air pollutant, is costing the nation about \$3 billion a year in crops. Probably saves more in subsidies.

The PUC has raised electric rates to make up for losses on nuclear plant investments. Just proves nuclear energy is hazardous to your wallet.

Governor Brown says Republicans are plotting to bankrupt California for irresponsible political purposes. The Brown calling the Reagan black.

A priest who drowned 10 squalling cats in a water-filled oil drum gets picketed by a committee from Animal Lovers Legal Action. Holy Cats! Drowned them in holy water, no doubt.

DWP housing bites the dust. What else did they leave to bite?

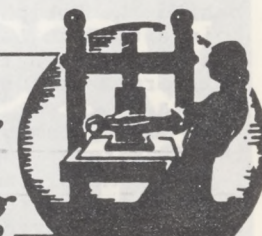
The Inyo Board of Supervisors may charge for garbage collection by adding it to the property tax bills. There goes Proposition 13 to the garbage heap.

Ben

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News Briefs continued

canal is built the "Southern California economy may literally dry up within the next 10 years." Obviously, they do not favor controlling water useage by controlling growth in the megalopolis of Los Angeles.

Press spokesman for the Citizens for Water, Leo McElroy, told us they have not worked with the L.A. Department of Water and Power since the canal won't directly affect DWP. "Truthfully, we haven't had much interchange of information with them," he said. "The State Water Project doesn't hit the Owens Valley but of course it's all tied in since the city draws from both sources. Presumably if they get more (water) from one area they can use less from another, but that logic may not apply there. There are those who think more water is better, period." And indeed, logic has never been in abundance in L.A.-Owens Valley water issues.

One local group that has become involved in the fracas is the Mono Lake Committee. Says Chairman David Gaines: "It's not so much that we're against the canal per se, but we've taken a long, hard look at the statewide water situation. Water can be used much more efficiently in California. Common sense reforms should and must precede expansion of the present system. Reform will assure adequate water supplies at least through the year 2000. If more water is needed at that time, then let's build the canal."

The water reforms of which Gaines speaks include common sense conservation measures, which he says can save 15% without any change in habits - simply by using low-flow shower heads and modern plumbing fixtures. But the Mono Lake Committee also sees the need for what Gaines terms "free market water pricing," in other words, making everyone pay for the water they use. Gaines contends a major cause of water waste is the non-efficient use by major agricultural concerns. He says agribusiness has no incentive to conserve water since they receive subsidies on the water they use.

Gaines objects to the campaign being waged by proponents of the canal project, calling their projections of the state economy "drying up" without the canal "absolute scare tactics."

What's DWP think of the canal? They're for it, of course. PR man Steve Hinderer says the Department looks upon the canal project as "an insurance policy," to back up the supply of water from Inyo and Mono.

Those in Northern California tend to be largely opposed to the canal. They fear that they will soon be the next victim of Los Angeles' unending thirst and they point to Inyo-Mono as an example.

In a recent edition of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, correspondent Carl Nolte wrote a front page article entitled "The Rape of Mono Lake: L.A. Grabs for More Water." It is part of a series of special reports the newspaper is doing on what it calls "the hidden story behind the Peripheral Canal." The article points to Mono Lake as an example of "what can happen when the resources of Northern California are used to water Southern California."

Nolte also gives a capsulized summary of the history of the Los Angeles land grab in Inyo and Mono, one likely to put Northern Californians already uneasy about giving up their water, even further on edge: "Los Angeles would have to get control of the (Inyo-Mono) water and build an aqueduct to Los Angeles, 233 miles away. But the plan

had to be a secret, or else prices would go up. Operating under cover, the city bought up huge portions of the valley until it controlled most of the land. To get the Los Angeles voters to approve the aqueduct the promoters created a fake drought. Water was dumped out of the reservoirs at night; rainfall statistics were manipulated. The people of Los Angeles were told that without more water the city would be ruined... The federal official who recommended that Los Angeles get the water was secretly on the city's payroll."

That's a story many locals are all too familiar with, but with background like that, Northern Californians may well vote to keep a tighter grip on their water

They, like many thinking people, must question whether Los Angeles will be allowed to drain the entire state before any restrictions are placed on its rambling development and need for more water.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST - That's always a problem in Mono County. But several Mono Supervisors believe conflict of interest statements amount to bureaucratic nonsense.

Supervisor Mike Jencks wanted the board to support his idea of bringing conflict of interest statements down to Mammoth county offices so southern Mono people do not have to make the long drive to Bridgeport to find out what kind of real estate and financial dealings their officials are involved in. But the only support Jencks received came from Supervisor Bill Reid.

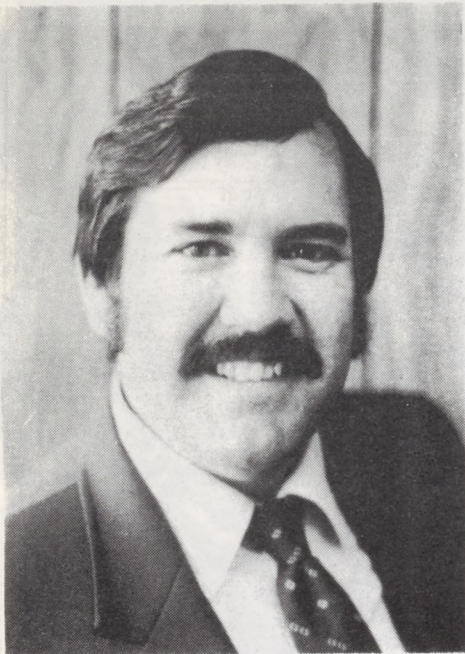
Supervisor Chairman E.L. Maner said of the disclosure statements: "I personally think it is an invasion of privacy. They don't disclose anything anyway." He said a lot of good people do not run for office or resign because of the demands of these disclosure statements. Maner added that if anyone is that interested in those statements, "Let them drive to Bridgeport and see them."

Supervisor Bob Stanford said that while he has no objections to having his conflict of interest statement in Mammoth, he does not want a minute order to demand it. "It's just a bureaucratic deal," he said, "and more work. We make all of the records available, but I decided to draw the line there."

The other dissenting board member, Supervisor Paul Johnson, called the disclosure statements "another layer of bureaucracy. It's nonsense." Johnson pointed out that these statements only reveal property owned in Mono County. He says he owns property down south which does not show up on those forms. "It's not a factual statement," said Johnson, "It's another level of paperwork. And we're trying to cut some of that."

But what these men did not say may be more important. Mono County constituents fear that real estate holdings and and business connections do alter the votes of supervisors. They want to know how local involvements can potentially color the views, and votes, of board members.

continued on page 17



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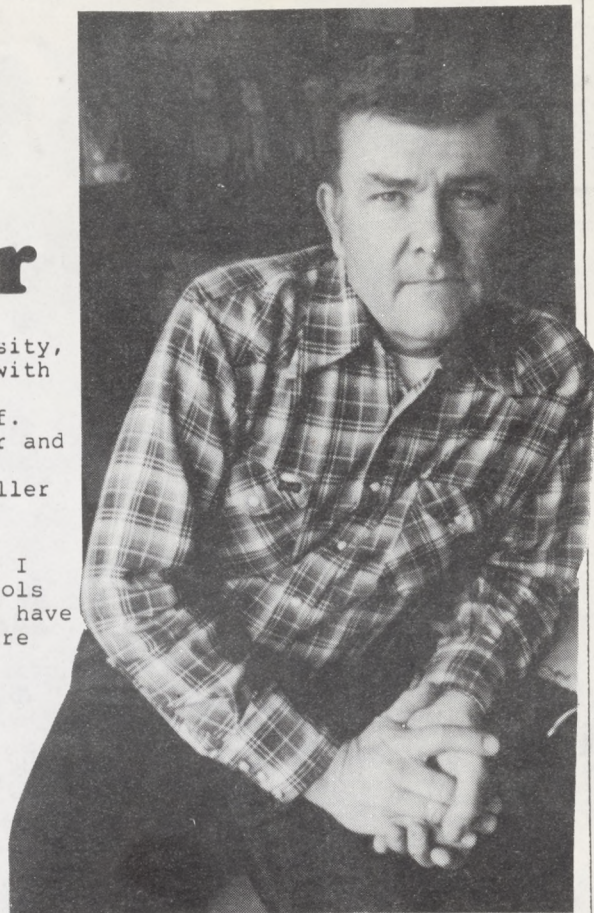
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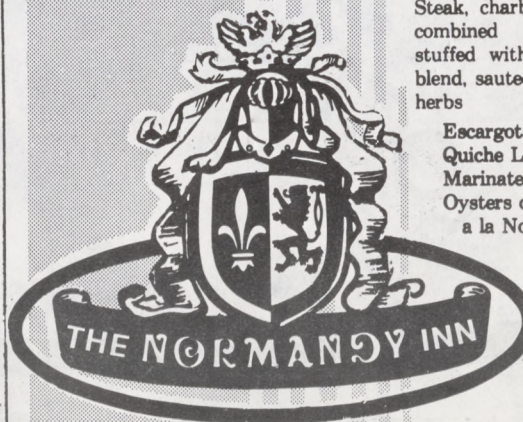
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THE MUCKRAKER THINKS POLITICIANS STROKE THE PUBLIC
DURING ELECTION YEARS...AND SPEAKING OF STROKES...
WALLY PETS THE LIONS...

Stroking the public is an art that many politicians get the hang of quickly. If you're a news addict like I am, you study the different styles of familiar politicians. Some you trust and some you wouldn't trust if a glowing halo was visible on them. All this led to the following, which I'd like to share with you:

THE TEN BIGGEST STROKES YOU'RE LIKELY TO HEAR
FROM POLITICIANS IN AN ELECTION YEAR

1. "I have absolutely no conflicts of interest in seeking this office..."
2. "I'm not going to bore you with..."
3. "I'll be getting a handle on the sky-rocketing cost of government..."
4. "I have never lied to you..."
5. "Good ol' boy politics ain't gonna be gittin' into my administration..."
6. "I'd like to make it perfectly clear..."
7. "I'll be talking all the mystery out of government..."
8. "We will be saving a considerable amount of your tax dollars when..."
9. "You and I together, will..."
10. "Honestly..."

Every week, on Wednesdays, I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and bow my head for a short prayer. Yup, just like the kids in the schools do. And, I think that all good Americans ought to do it, grown or not.

What happens is, a bunch of guys from our town, Mammoth Lakes, often as many as a hundred of us or more, break for lunch at noon sharp and head for a place called the Mogul. We clip on big buttons, each with our names and the kind of jobs we're into, and then we shake hands all around and greet each other as old friends. We're a men's club and we call ourselves Lions. Brother Lions. I'm a first year Lion and it's a club I'm proud to be a member of. I enjoy being a Lion.

Once we pay the five bucks to our treas-

urer for lunch, we swap a few wisecracks around the room. The exchanges give the guys who may be a judge, a teacher, a truckdriver, local cop or merchant a chance to really be himself. The feeling's good. It's a healthy release from a buildup of stress and tensions, all done good-naturedly. It's equality.

Brother Lions avoid a few things at their noon lunches. They avoid politics, arguments and their wives. Instead, things are kept light with small talk, corny jokes and a little fun is poked at most of us one time or another over the course of a month's meetings. There's a lot of laughing and lively chatter. There's genuine friendship.

But Brother Lions make it a point to never lose sight of some of the hard realities. Lionism, as some bright Lion before me labeled our creed, is an attitude. To be a good Lion is to be in the public service but not necessarily on the public payroll. Lionism is sharing your time with community involvement projects and always advocating a kind of peaceful harmony in our small corner of the world. I guess you could say that Lions pledge allegiance to Lionism. As a club, the members reach out where they might help out. They make meaningful contributions to reputable charities, invest in the education of local youth through scholarship programs, join worthwhile organizations such as the Eye Institute and Lions are dedicated to moving their community ahead.

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HWY. 395 at INDEPENDENCE

Mammoth teachers: Intimidation or "sour grapes?"

by Marilyn Fisher

Real morale problems or simply sour grapes?

Some of Mammoth's teachers say there are problems with MHS Principal Joe Maruca. Others say no.

Opinions widely diverge, depending upon whom you talk to. This is macho Mammoth, after all.

The problems emerged into the light in the wake of a controversy over the suspension and, finally, the resignation of science teacher David Boe. He refused to coach a girls' basketball team, and his boss, sports enthusiast Maruca, got mad. While some teachers expressed concern over that immediate conflict, their complaints increased over what they saw as deeper, underlying problems: the working relationships with Maruca.

After his resignation Boe talked for the record. Plainly, he had "nothing to lose." Other

teachers, still employed, talked but asked that their names not be used "for fear of retribution." Among their complaints: that Maruca runs the school "by fear and intimidation, not by respect;" that he is "unprofessional" in his dealings with the staff; and that he uses foul language in front of students and staff.

Maruca talked at length about the issues but he also declined to be quoted. Others, however, both in the school and in the community, denied the charges falling on Maruca's head and they defended his "aggressiveness." A tough leader, they say, and polite amenities are not his strong suit.

If there are two sides to every story, in this case probably the most accurate is somewhere in the middle.

Boe contends that the issue over his resignation goes beyond the question of whether the district has any right to

require teachers to take on coaching or other extracurricular activities (a state arbitrator sided with the district on that question, but it is now pending before the Public Employees Relations Board --PERB.) The former teacher objects to the pressure placed on teachers to take part in those activities and says teachers are "intimidated" into coaching by fear of losing their jobs. Much of the public on the other hand, thinks it's high time teachers put in their 12 months of labor like everybody else.

Says one teacher, "He (Maruca) has to rule not through respect but through intimidation and fear just like a Marine drill sergeant does. And he's made insinuations that he'll 'get' people." While it is virtually impossible to fire a tenured teacher for anything less than morals charges, this group of instructors says many of the teachers strongly feel as they do but they are afraid to speak out. "Everybody complains about him, even the coaches. But they 'play ball.' Everybody's scared of their jobs. Jobs are tight and they feel like Joe can probably get their jobs. They feel now that they got rid of Boe, they can get my job too."

Well, the district didn't "get rid of Boe;" he chose voluntarily to resign for what he said were health reasons. The 32-year-old teacher claimed he began having serious high blood pressure problems due to the stress of his hassle with the school. Now, he has taken a step further and filed a Worker's Compensation claim against the district, claiming injury due to "stress and strain of heart" between 1973 and 1981, the years he taught at Mammoth.

The teachers who say they fear for their jobs defend and maintain a position: they would probably not be fired outright, but more subtle pressure might be applied until perhaps they, too, would decide to resign.



Former science teacher David Boe

A new Worker's Comp claim and charges that MHS administration "intimidates" teachers.

"He's really going to rag on us because he knows we're here (talking to a reporter)." What do they feel will happen because they chose to air their complaints? "More little picayune things will get filed in your (personnel) folder. All of a sudden you'll be assigned to some weird duty perhaps, or your prep period will be switched to an uncomfortable time. He'll insinuate things about you in front of the staff, that you're not to be trusted. He can just make it hell for you."

Vice Principal Rich McAteer says no undue pressure is placed on teachers to coach or participate in other activities. "Joe and I are in the same camp on this question," he says. "Dave Boe and I are good friends and business partners so I also have some empathy for his concerns. But to run a complete high school everyone's got to be on a team. Our teachers have to understand that you have to do more than put in your five hours a day in class. Some teachers feel there's pressure to contribute to the school and they resent it. They just want to teach and do nothing else. That makes the others have to pull even harder. On the whole we're very pleased with the staff but if some are dissatisfied that's a choice they're going to have to make because we're not going

to change. We're up front with them before they come to work here."

Anarchy doesn't play well at Mammoth High.

McAteer admits the "faculty is a little divided" over the issue of required coaching or extracurricular time, but contends those who object are a "vast minority." As far as the question of "intimidation" is concerned, McAteer flatly denies it. "We don't intimidate, pressure or ask anyone to do anything they're not getting paid for. We certainly directly ask them, and the expectations are there but it's an open and free discussion. Our teachers are some of the highest paid in the valley and we don't have qualms about asking them to participate. It takes a lot to teach here at Mammoth but they are compensated well by comparison."

McAteer is confident that when the PERB ruling is returned it will be in the district's favor. "The arbitrator found completely in favor of the district and we're anticipating PERB will uphold that. Sometimes PERB tends to be middle-of-the-road and slap both sides, but we'll see. If they feel we're intimidating teachers then we'll stop."

While Mammoth teachers are in fact paid better than most districts in Inyo-Mono, the cost

of living in the resort town is also astronomically higher than communities in the rest of the two-county area. Teachers are paid for their coaching duties, but they contend that the compensation comes to little over a dollar an hour. Small potatoes in Mammoth, or anywhere else, for that matter. To make ends meet they say that most of the teachers must take on second or even third jobs, and the hours spent coaching can often interfere with those outside jobs.

"Almost all of them (teachers) have more than one job," says Boe. "A few are wives whose husbands have tremendous incomes and they (the teachers) are basically the supplemental income. But it's very fair to say a majority have a second job. Either the teaching income is supplemental or the teacher has two jobs. When we went down the roster of teachers at the high school, the majority of the faculty had at least one if not two or three other little jobs."

The Mammoth Education Assn., the teachers' organization for both the high school and elementary faculty, will address that question in the coming year's contract negotiations. They take the stand that extracurricular activities amount to

Continued next page

... At Independence, A Resignation

Tiny Owens Valley Unified School District at Independence has also had its share of problems. Trouble there erupted out of what many called "personality problems." Those problems were severe enough to result in the resignation of superintendent Doug Henderson.

Usually, very few bother to attend the Owens Valley school board meetings. But one night forty parents, teachers and concerned citizens showed up. They talked about a "lack of respect" by the board for teachers during negotiation sessions and what some called mistreatment of Henderson.

Most of the issue took place behind the scenes, where Independence people talked about organizing a re-call on board member Dean Loder. They never did. Concerned about reprisals in a small town, most people talked only off the record. However, Methodist minister Ted Hampton and the church's prayer group did turn up at a board meeting and the reverend read a statement which offered an apology to Henderson for what he termed rude treatment by the board.

At a later meeting Hampton also told the board that he believes citizens should be able to express their views at board meetings without fear of reprisals in the community. He declined to explain.

Informed sources said that Mrs. Loder

had doggedly berated Henderson, hounding him on issues, interfering with his work, but offering no positive help. Mrs. Loder denies this although she says she is "persistent." Board members have declined to air their gripes about Henderson, and he chose to resign. In his letter of resignation, Henderson said to the board: "Your offer of the position of superintendent/principal of Owens Valley Unified School District was accepted by me only after a long and detailed discussion with the board in which we agreed upon our philosophy priorities, and goals for the district; the areas for which each would be responsible; and the support each would give the other in carrying out these responsibilities. The actual working relationship between the superintendent and the board has been very disappointing."

Community members privately called the whole problem a serious lack of mature human relations on the part of some board members in their dealings with the superintendent. The turmoil ended up costing the school district about \$10,000 to pay Henderson for part of his contract upon resignation and to pay for two lead teachers to take over the administrative duties until a replacement could be found.

Continued

overtime and should be treated as such. The teachers want an hourly wage for that extra time, which they compute by dividing the annual salary by the number of days worked. For most teachers, the price tag would come to about \$25 per hour, they say. Even in Mammoth that's not small potatoes.

Says one teacher, "We're trying to make a point that if you feel you (the district) have the right to assign us, you're going to have to pay us and compete with the second jobs everyone needs. In every other business or industry they cannot require you to work overtime but they have to ask. And if you do, they have to pay time and a half, not \$1.50 per hour."

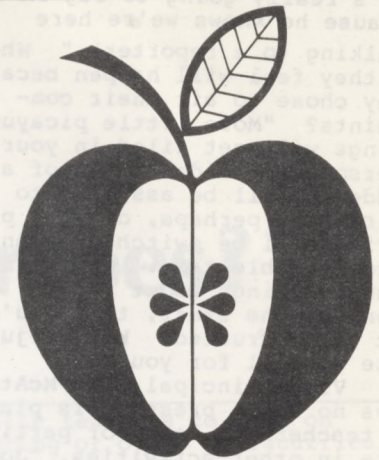
In Boe's case, his second job (now his full-time career) was, and is, selling real estate. However, the district contends he was using his lunch hour and prep period during the school day to do it. That question, and many others, may be resolved by the PERB decision.

But some teachers say the hassle over the coaching position was merely a convenient excuse to pressure Boe because "he said no to Maruca."

"He wasn't looking for what was good for the school or good for girls' basketball, he was looking for a place to put Boe because Boe said he didn't want to coach anymore." Boe contends he was not shirking responsibility since he had coached for seven of his eight years at MHS.

The teachers say others volunteered for the coaching position but were turned down. In the end, the junior varsity team was combined with the varsity. Some teachers say it all came about because so few students turned out in the first place. "It happens every year. They had three girls out there and Maruca knew that this was all coming to a head and if word got out only three girls had turned out and Boe was about to be suspended for 10 days it would look bad. So he (Maruca) hustled some girls out of class to make sure they came out for it. Others on the staff were going up and down the hall soliciting girls to go out for basketball. We saw some very interesting things happen."

The other side says that Boe did the soliciting to get teachers to talk for this article. Said one source: "A great deal of recruitment went on by Mr. Boe to get the staff there and they didn't show up."



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That should be pretty ample evidence that there really isn't much to talk about. On any staff there is always someone who doesn't care for what the boss says. Boe went to large extents to recruit people by phone calls, coercion and shameful tactics to get those people there and they didn't show."

But some did show and they had plenty to talk about. Others talked individually at other times. But the other side says it's merely a case of sour grapes with Boe trying to continue making waves as long as possible.

Those in the community are divided on feelings towards Maruca as well. Last fall, the suspension of some student athletes caught drinking caused a stir among parents. But others side with Maruca on that decision and in general. One is Wally Charleston, who has known Maruca for five years.

"I myself haven't heard much negative comment about Joe. Students love the guy. I wouldn't stick my neck out so far as to say he isn't controversial, because he is. But he's the kind of strength that might be best suited for that job. I know he's a tough guy.

Continued on page 18

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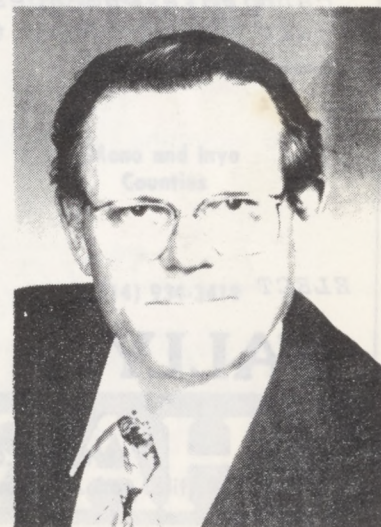
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continued from page 6

have had the disease that badly and survive," says his father. "He had gone swimming at the canal off East Line Street in Bishop and had been bitten by mosquitos. He didn't pay much attention at first. It took two or three days for the reaction. The doctors first thought it was an embolism of some sort. We flew him to L.A. and specialists ran tests. In about an hour and a half they knew it was Western Equine Encephalitis."

His son began swallowing his tongue and lapsed into unconsciousness. "He ran a fever of 108 to 110 degrees but he finally came out of it. He had to learn to walk and talk all over again." Now, six years later, Varnum says his son suffered brain damage. "He's able to work now and outwardly he's physically fine. But there has been permanent heart, kidney and liver damage. It's shortened his life span by an estimated 50%."

Does Varnum think an abatement program would help cut down on the liklihood of others getting the disease?

"Abatement helped. I'd like to see the whole thing go back but I don't expect to see anything happen the way things are being cut back," he said.

And indeed, local government is having a tough time meeting payroll, let alone replacing old programs. Some citizens had explored the possibility of forming a special abatement district. That would require the vote of the people and a willingness to tax themselves for the service, an estimated \$90,000 per year for the entire valley. Some have suggested that DWP should pay for all or part of the program due to their water spreading activities. DWP's

response has always been that the department pays its property taxes and should not be assessed further.

But not everyone feels that abatement is the answer even if the money to provide it should magically appear. Years ago citizens complained about their homes and gardens being "fogged" and worried about the effects of the pesticides on their health. And some questioned the effectiveness of the spraying; they said the relief was only psychological.

Whatever the eventual outcome of the "abatement debate," it appears this spring's moisture may provide the catalyst in the form of the buzzing, biting pests. The arguments are likely to be animatedly punctuated by slaps and scratches. ■

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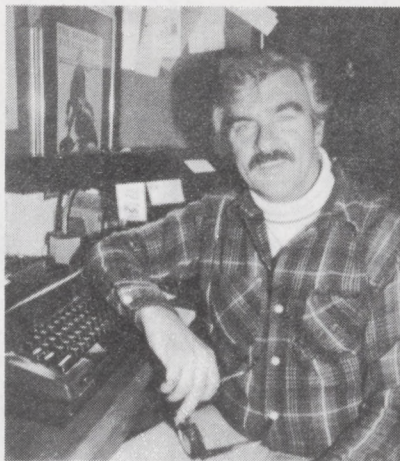
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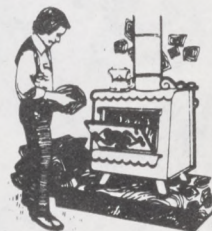
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News Briefs continued

With the price of just about everything in an upward spiral, it's refreshing to see a few commodities actually selling for less. Some Inyo-Mono businessmen are enjoying a price break when it comes to their insurance premiums.

In fact, business insurance prices have been slashed as much as 50 to 70 per cent

in some cases. It's all due to what the industry calls a "soft" insurance market in which companies will intentionally take a loss on premiums in order to increase their cash flow for investments.

Insurance man Jim Bowles of Bakersfield and son of local agent Bill Bowles, says the result has been fierce competition among insurance companies. "Wherever rates

are not regulated companies are throwing caution to the wind. A company that might have been paying \$50,000 a year for insurance premiums now might pay only \$15-20,000."

While the slashed rates have brought more than a few smiles to the faces of business people, Bowles says those smiles could turn to frowns when the economy turns around.

"There's a great potential for problems," he says. "When the money market rates drop, insurance companies will need to completely change their rate structures. Those who have enjoyed temporary rate cuts but haven't worked at controlling their losses could face having their rates doubled or tripled or having their coverage dropped altogether. It's a volatile situation and the consumer should anticipate what will happen when the interest rates drop."

"Interest rates are the best indicator to the buying public," he says. "When they see the rate drop, be prepared for insurance premiums to go back up."

But meanwhile it's dog eat dog in the insurance world.

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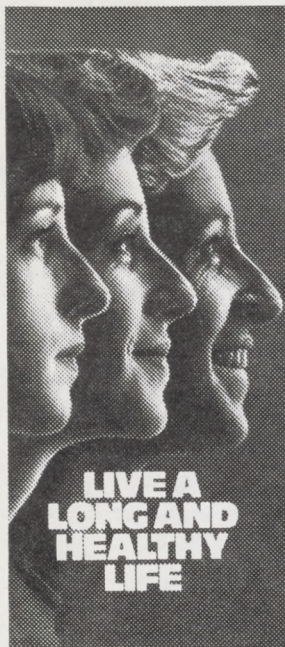
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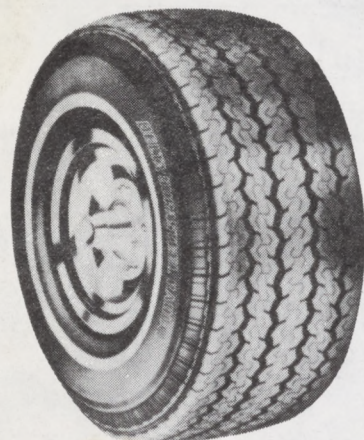
**AMERICAN
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SOCIETY**

Continued from page 15

He works on his instincts and gut feelings about what's good for his high school and what's bad for his high school. He hasn't done a bad job. We turn out good kids and we turn out damn fine athletes.

"I've studied him for five years. From being a parent and a journalist I've always found him to be truthful and honest with me. He's got a delivery that some people find offensive. But he doesn't intimidate teachers. He lets them know, though, that the kids come first and the teachers come second. I'd have to disagree with anyone who states he's a poor principal. Look at the other side and see what he's accomplished. I see the kind of Joe Maruca who could have straightened me out when I was a kid. Many teachers and administrators believe the school would have gone on a downslide without Maruca sitting in that chair. I question whether someone with a soft voice would have influence over some of those kids."

As for soft voices, there seem to be very few at Mammoth High these days.



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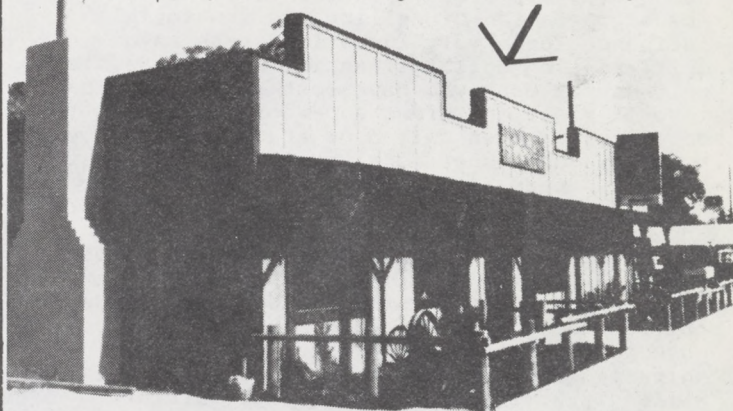
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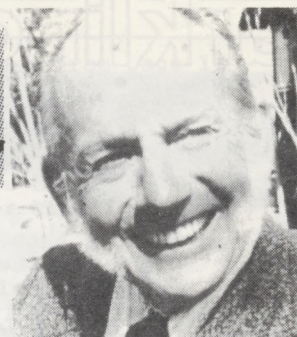
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View from the Right



Paul
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PAUL PAYNE ON OUR COUNTRY'S PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.

Harrison Williams, Jr., the 64-year-old Democratic New Jersey Senator convicted in the Abscam operation of selling his senatorial influence for a very lucrative share in a multi-million dollar financial enterprise, is only one of many who have lost their perspective of right and wrong and whose sense of morality has been dulled or erased by the political and educational systems of the last 75 or 80 years.

As our educational system has become more and more the responsibility of governments, the moral teachings of our children has become less and less.

Originally, education of our children was the responsibility of the home and the church. When politicians came up with the idea of universal education, although they will not willingly admit it, they saw that within a few generations a society of immoral and unethical people could be produced. That those who failed to complete the system could be held in slavery and those who completed the educational system could become the bureaucrats, slavemasters and politicians. Senator Williams undoubtedly is a product of our modern educational system.

Politicians have been very successful in tearing down the family unit. The public welfare system has been one of the great contributors to this problem. Their support of unwed mothers and their children and the forced (universal) education of these offspring in government run (political) schools, have given politicians a vehicle to raise the type of people they can control. Many present high school graduates can neither read nor write above a fourth grade level; nor have they been taught to think and reason. These people will make good slaves and cannon fodder. Those who can make it through to "higher education" will become the political leaders and bureaucrats.

To carry their scheme at an even accelerated rate, these politicians are now at-

tempting to withdraw the tax exemption of both private and church schools and colleges; those being the last strongholds of moral and ethical teaching.

If unethical and immoral politicians gain complete control, the education of our children, how can they produce a moral and ethical product? Doesn't like produce like?

One of history's wisest men gave this advice to us some three thousand years ago and it still holds true today: "Bring up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Public (government) education and the politicians know what they are doing. Do we who know better want to live in a world of crime, immorality and slavery?

Think about it!

Paul

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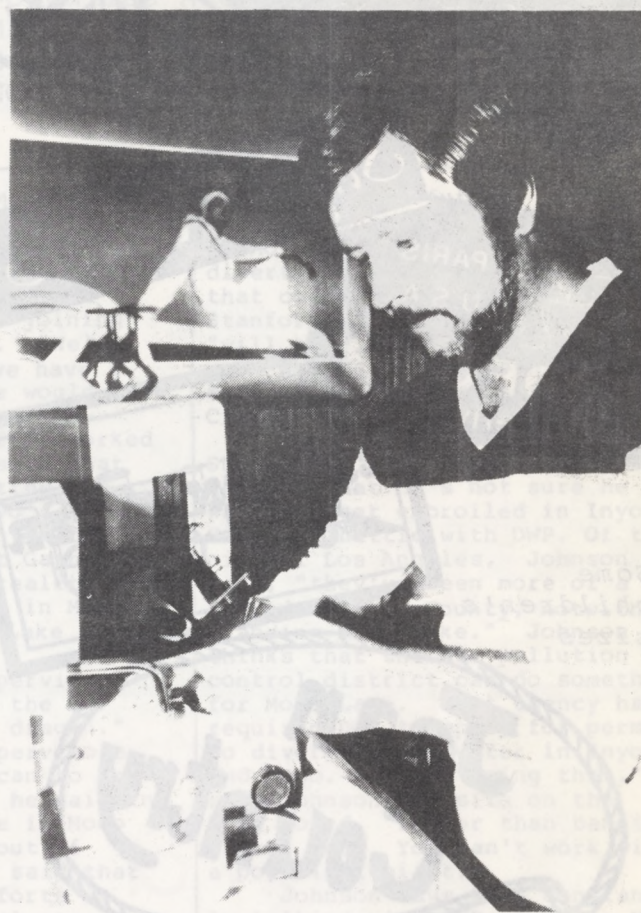
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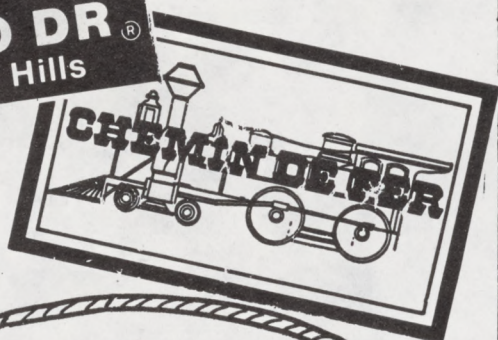
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by Benett Kessler

United we stand, divided we fall.

The early American colonials knew it and they won. But the Inyo-Mono colonials are not so wise. The City of Los Angeles knows how to keep the colonies divided and under control.

Los Angeles owns thousands of acres in both Inyo and Mono Counties. The city owns water rights in both counties too and has exploited those rights to the fullest in Inyo County - forcing people to struggle for some kind of control over their water and land.

In Mono County, Mono Lake and surrounding territory suffers from DWP's diversions. But the rest of the county sees Los Angeles as a powerful patriarch and themselves as sycophants. Years ago when Inyo County filed its first lawsuit against DWP's plans for more groundwater pumping, Inyo officials asked Mono Supervisors if they wanted to join the suit. They did not. Mono officials still refuse to see DWP as a foe and said so when the issue of joining forces came up again.

Some of Inyo County's water commissioners met with State Department of Water Resources Director Ron Robie in Sacramento. He spoke highly of Inyo's groundwater pumping ordinance and attempts at local groundwater management. But the widespread publicity on Mono Lake's problems had obviously reached Robie. He asked Inyo's water commissioners if they intended to talk about Mono Lake in their environmental assessments of DWP's water gathering activities. That brought up the old question: Should Inyo and Mono unite?

Inyo's Water Director Gregg James said that "Mono Lake is big time in Sacramento," but he said he feels the Mono County government is not interested. "Mono County," he said, "has deliberately stayed out of water hassles. But we

will meet with the Mono Lake Committee to share information and coordinate our efforts."

Chairman of that committee, David Gaines, says he thinks Inyo and Mono joining forces is essential. "We're small counties and we have a common interest. We would have a better chance for an acceptable solution if we worked together." Gaines said that the Mono Lake Committee has always supported Inyo's efforts to limit DWP's drain on the county's water. But Gaines stated a political reality: "The people in power in Mono don't consider Mono Lake a problem."

Mono County Supervisor Bob Stanford called the DWP issue a "two-headed dragon." He said that the supervisors have done all they can to protect Mono Lake. But he said in dealing with DWP "We in Mono have tried to stay out of trouble." Stanford said that in the long run, efforts in the state and federal government may bring some help for Mono Lake. Stanford added that he, "as one supervisor will be happy to meet with the Inyo Water Commission to discuss this issue." As for Inyo, Stanford said "They have different problems. In some cases they have been aggressive towards DWP. Maybe they have to be. I think we've tried hard to establish a social and business relationship with DWP. We do need land leases from them."

DWP uses that same "land lever" in Inyo County. L.A. leases land to businesses, churches, schools, ranches, and local government. And when the colonials buck "grandma" - as DWP workers call the City of L.A. - the levers start to jump.

Right now, Inyo County water is cheaper for DWP. It's closer to Los Angeles and the aqueducts are right there. But

what about the future? Los Angeles owns many water rights in Mono County and can start diverting and pumping water in that county too. Supervisor Stanford said he thinks DWP "will have a hard time taking more water from Mammoth." L.A. does own water rights to Mammoth Creek.

Mono Lake lies within Supervisor Paul Johnson's district. He said that he's not sure he wants to get embroiled in Inyo County's battle with DWP. Of the city of Los Angeles, Johnson said, "they've been more of a friend to Mono County, notwithstanding Mono Lake." Johnson thinks that the air pollution control district can do something for Mono Lake. That agency has required DWP to apply for permits to divert stream water in Inyo and Mono. "We're doing that," said Johnson who sits on the APCD board, "rather than banging on the desk. You can't work with a political giant."

Johnson says he's constantly talking with DWP staff on Mono Lake. And he said that "DWP will undoubtedly want more water down the line. We'll just play the situation by ear."

Inyo Supervisor Chairman Wilma Muth says she thinks throwing Mono Lake into Inyo's groundwater management plan "would be putting too much into a kettle of worms." She sees the Mono Supervisors as soft on DWP. "Mono has supervisors now that flex back and forth too much. When Joan Green was there, she was working with us." Supervisor Muth has studied the water issues thoroughly and often shows a great clarity in understanding them. As for Inyo and Mono uniting against DWP, Mrs. Muth said, "The two of us together could do good things. We need three on each board of supervisors working together. But now I don't see it. There's nothing going on in Mono County

Continued next page

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without the Mono Lake Committee."

Mrs. Muth's counterpart in
Mono, Supervisor Chairman E.L.

Maner proved Muth's point when
he talked of the DWP conflict:
"We've specifically stayed out
of that. Inyo County once asked
us to join them in a lawsuit.
We felt like it was not in our
best interest. Our problems are
the same and they're not. We
have a good rapport with DWP."

Although everything is
smiles and back-patting now, the
future still holds that unset-
tling question: As Los Angeles
swells with an obscene growth
rate, will DWP tap Mono County
for more water? Supervisor Maner
does not think so. But those
who observe the habits of LADWP
know that this city utility has
but one goal - to provide water
for the city of Los Angeles in
the cheapest way. It's a simple
matter of dollars. For DWP,
the price is right in Inyo and
Mono.

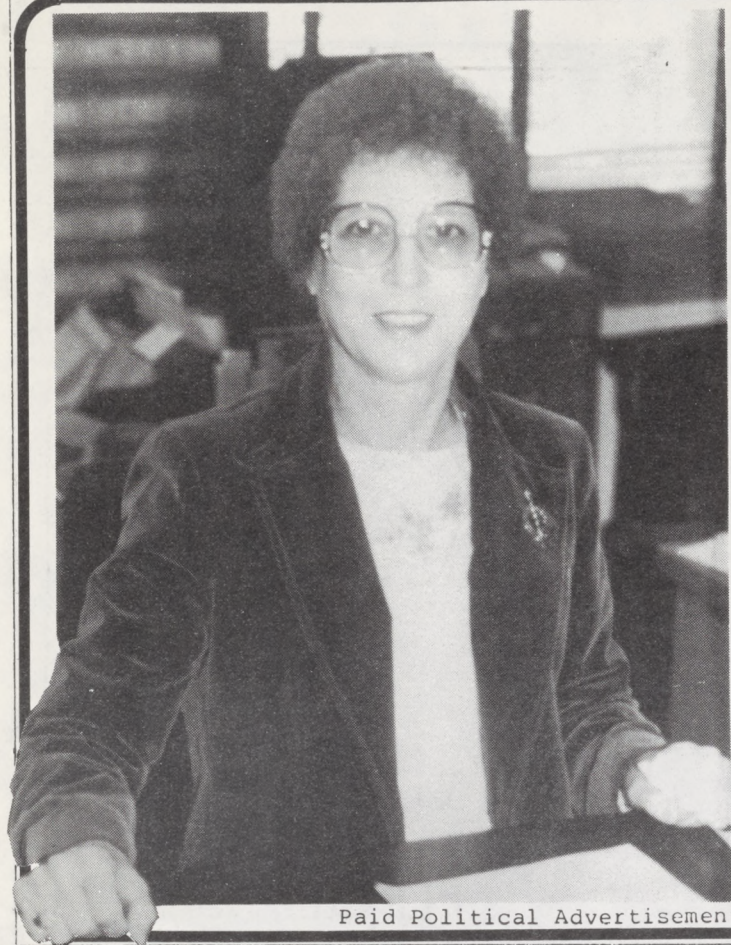
County Counsel Neil Van
Winkle, a relative new-comer,
already has the low down on
DWP: "Mono County is pretty
comfortable with DWP. We need
DWP for land. Everytime we ask
for it, we get it. We don't
want to fight." Van Winkle
admitted "One problem is Mono
Lake. But we really can't do
anything about it." He says
that the supervisors went on
record in support of legislation
for Mono Lake. We asked Van
Winkle if he thinks DWP might
try to tap Mono waters in years
to come. "I don't think we
have anyone with that kind of
vision," he said.

Very few politicians in
Mono County, it seems, have
opened their eyes beyond im-
mediate expediency on DWP
issues.

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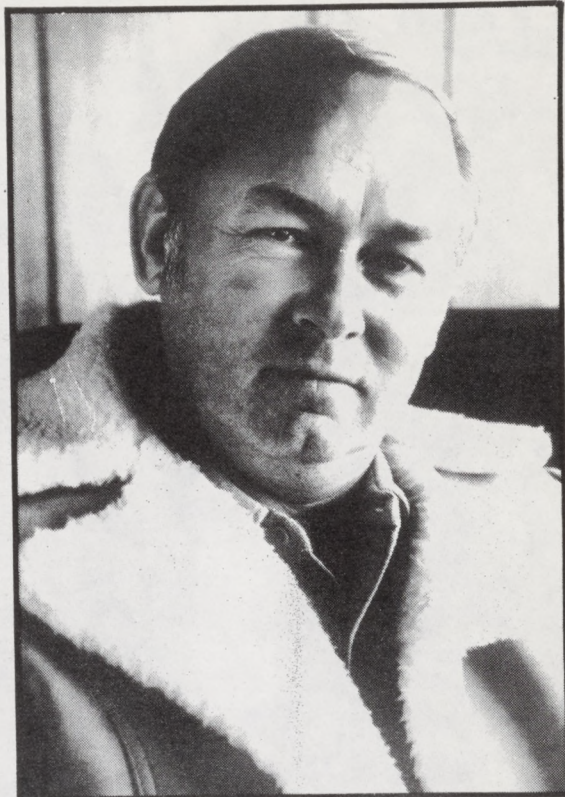
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Notes from BK



COULD DWP'S DUANE GEORGESON BECOME THE NEXT SECRETARY OF RESOURCES FOR THE STATE? / THE JAILING OF A MONO RESTAURANT OWNER STIRRED UP CONTROVERSY AS WELL AS BETTER MEALS AT THE BRIDGEPORT JAIL...

BEFORE INYO VOTERS troop to the polls in June, it may be well for them to know a few things about Los Angeles politics. Those who bother to look will discover some alarming, but not really surprising facts.

In June voters will choose who they want to represent the Republican and Democratic parties in the November governor's race. Democratic Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley has politicked hard over the past years to maneuver himself into the top spot at Sacramento.

Reliable sources tell us that if, in fact, Bradley does win the Democratic nomination to run for governor and then if he wins the gubernatorial race, DWP's Duane Georgeson wants Bradley to appoint him as State Secretary of Resources. It would provide a classic case of the wolf tending the flock of lambs.

In his dealings with Owens Valley, Georgeson has exhibited an ongoing cynicism for the environment and the people here. We do not need more Los Angeles politics pushing Owens Valley and the rest of the state toward destruction. Our sources tell us Georgeson has politicked enough with Bradley to possibly get such an appointment.

Duane Georgeson knows next to nothing about directing the state's resources. He knows how to exploit them. To the profit of his cronies in the L.A. bureaucracy.

MORE THAN A FEW DISAGREED with the jailing of Paradise Lodge's Merv Schaeffer.

When Merv went to Bridgeport jail to serve 90 days, he received 300 letters - all supportive of him and critical of the decision to jail him. But it was a real treat for the Bridgeport inmates. Schaeffer shared his culinary talents with the prisoners by preparing the jail meals during his stay.

AND SPEAKING OF DINING...We saw Rich and Nancy Camillieri in the Whiskey Creek dining room, celebrating their 15th anniversary. They're the happiest looking 15-year couple I've seen. Rich almost complicated his life by running for supervisor. We understand he had a lot of support. But a working man cannot realistically support himself and a family on a supervisor's pay. Camillieri considered quitting his job, but he simply could not afford to do that. As long as supervisorial pay stays low, only retired people or the wealthy will represent

us on the board of supervisors.

WE NEED ALL THE TALENT WE CAN GET on the rim of the boardroom horseshoe. At this point courthouse watchers wonder just who is running the show. Or as the joke goes: "No one was driving, officer, we were all in the back seat singing." It's a crowded backseat over at the courthouse. And the problems loom far larger than small minds can realize.

Behind the scenes, the Inyo Supervisors agonize over what to do about hydro-power development, money, DWP and the county budget. Dissension between individual board members may heat up soon.

THE BRIDGEPORT COURTHOUSE GRAPEVINE, too, buzzes with behind-the-scenes politics. Some feel that County Counsel Neil Van Winkle helped engineer the latest salary and classification survey. There are those who believe Van Winkle wants to manipulate in his "own people" for a "Van Winkle Courthouse troop." Obviously, the Van Winkle watchers still nervously watch.

WHY DO INYO OFFICIALS INSIST on trotting off to Los Angeles every time DWP wants to get into one of those notorious agreements? The courthouse can barely afford to keep its workers and bills paid. One of those trips amounts to a costly venture, paying for top officials' time, travel, and meals.

Students of Machiavelli too know that negotiating in enemy territory gives one's adversary a distinct advantage. But as long as Inyo plays nice guy, political wisdom finds no place in Inyo government.

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